Listing of Claims:

1-44. (Cancelled)

45. (Currently Amended) A method of serving objects in a computing network, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a sender for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising ~~a plurality of storage devices and~~ a control unit configured to determine a mapping ~~for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices~~ for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device;

evaluating the request for the object based ~~on criteria~~ upon at least one predetermined criterion;

if the ~~criteria are~~ at least one predetermined criterion is met, ~~redirecting the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system~~ returning a redirect code from the web server to the sender, wherein the sender utilizes the redirect code to obtain the object in a manner that bypasses the web server for outbound traffic from the intelligent storage system to the client without transferring a corresponding session between the web server and the sender to a different web server; and

if the ~~criteria are~~ at least one predetermined criterion is not met, serving the stored object from the intelligent storage system to the sender via the web server.

46. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein ~~evaluating criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request~~ returning a redirect code from the web server to the sender comprises:

informing ~~a sender~~ the sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object ~~when the selected criteria are met~~.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~web server~~ method according to Claim 46, wherein the ~~subsequent connection~~ redirect code points the sender to the logical location of the object on the intelligent storage system and bypasses the web server.

48. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~Claim 47~~ Claim 45, wherein ~~informing a sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses a redirect code~~ the redirect code comprises a redirect indication of an existing protocol.

49. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Hypertext Transfer Protocol.

50. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 48, wherein the existing protocol is Wireless Session Protocol.

51. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~Claim 48~~ Claim 45, further comprising automatically requesting establishment ~~of the subsequent~~ of a subsequent connection between the sender and the intelligent storage system ~~automatically~~ in response to the redirect code.

52. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion ~~the criteria~~ comprises evaluating the request for the object based upon a size of the stored object.

53. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request ~~based on criteria~~ for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a statically specified number.

54, (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 53, wherein the statically-specified number is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

55. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request ~~based on criteria~~ for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises comparing a size of the stored object to a dynamically-determined number.

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 55, wherein the dynamically-determined number is determined in view of the current network conditions.

57. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein ~~the criteria~~ evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises evaluating a naming extension of the stored object.

58. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~Claim 57~~ Claim 45, wherein evaluating ~~the request based on criteria~~ a naming extension of the stored object comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a statically-specified set of naming extensions.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58, wherein the statically-specified set of naming extensions is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

60. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request ~~based on criteria~~ for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether a naming extension matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of naming extensions.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 60, wherein the dynamically-determined set of naming extensions is determined in view of current network conditions.

62. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein ~~the criteria~~ evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises evaluating the request for a name of the stored object.

63. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request ~~based on criteria~~ for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a statically-specified set of object names.

64. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 63, wherein the statically-specified set of object names is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

65. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request ~~based on criteria~~ for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether an object name matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of object names.

66. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 65, wherein the dynamically-determined set of object names is determined in view of current network conditions.

67. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein ~~the criteria~~ evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises evaluating a content type of the stored object.

68. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request ~~based on criteria~~ for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a statically-specified set of content types.

69. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 68, wherein the statically-specified set of content types is specified by an administrator using a configuration interface.

70. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein evaluating the request ~~based on criteria~~ for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises determining whether a content type matches an element in a set of dynamically-determined set of content types.

71. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 70, wherein the dynamically-determined set of content types is determined in view of current network conditions.

72. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 45, wherein ~~the criteria~~ evaluating the request for the object based upon at least one predetermined criterion comprises using one or more wildcards which operate to match more than one stored object.

73. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 45, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

74. (Currently Amended) A method of creating a link to an object, the method comprising:

receiving a request for a particular object that is stored in an intelligent storage system comprising ~~a plurality of storage devices and~~ a control unit configured to determine a mapping ~~for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices~~ for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device;

evaluating ~~characteristics~~ at least one characteristic of the particular object;

creating a redirect link on a web server receiving the request and deploying the redirect link on at least one other web server ~~on one or more web servers from which the particular object is requested~~ if the at least one evaluated characteristic ~~evaluated characteristics~~ of the particular object is satisfied ~~meet criteria~~, the redirect link being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

creating an object serving link ~~on the one or more the web servers~~ on the web server receiving the request and deploying the object serving link on at least one other web server if the evaluated characteristics of the particular object ~~do not meet the criteria~~ is not satisfied.

75. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the redirect link enables returning a direct status code to a requester of the object.

76. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, further comprising requesting establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

77. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, wherein contents of the redirect link are programmatically created.

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 75, wherein the contents of the redirect link are manually created.

79. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 74, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises network-attached storage.

80. (Canceled)

81. (Cancelled)

82. (Currently Amended) A system for serving objects in a computing network, comprising:

an intelligent storage system comprising ~~a plurality of storage devices and~~ a control unit configured to determine a mapping for a request for an object to ~~one of the plurality of storage devices;~~ to a location on an associated storage device; and

a web server configured to receive the request by a sender for an object stored on the intelligent storage system, the web server being configured to evaluate the request based on ~~criteria~~ at least one criterion, and if the ~~criteria are~~ at least one criterion is met, returning a redirect code to the sender to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system, wherein the sender utilizes the redirect code to obtain the object in a manner that bypasses the web server for outbound traffic from the intelligent storage system to the client without transferring a corresponding session between the web server and the sender to a different web server, and if the ~~criteria are~~ at least one criterion is not met, to serve the stored object via the web server.

83. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 82, wherein the web server is configured to redirect the request to the control unit by sending information that a subsequent connection should be established for serving the stored object when the ~~selected criteria are met~~ at least one criterion is met.

84. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 83, wherein the redirect code points the sender to the logical location of the object on the intelligent storage system and ~~subsequent connection~~ bypasses the web server.

85. (Currently Amended) The system according to Claim 83, wherein the ~~web server is configured to send a~~ redirect code is of an existing protocol that automatically causes establishment of ~~the subsequent~~ a subsequent connection between the sender and the intelligent storage system.

86. (Currently Amended) A system for creating a link to an object, the system comprising:

an intelligent storage system comprising ~~a plurality of storage devices and~~ a control unit configured to determine a mapping for a request for the object to ~~one of the plurality of storage devices~~ to a location on an associated storage device;

a web server configured to receive the request for the object and to evaluate ~~the characteristics~~ at least one characteristic of the object;

wherein the web server is configured to create a redirect link configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system if the ~~evaluated characteristics~~ at least one evaluated characteristic of the particular object ~~meet criteria~~ is met, wherein the redirect link is deployed onto at least one other web server, and to create an object serving link on the web server if the ~~evaluated characteristics~~ at least one evaluated characteristic of the particular object ~~do not meet the criteria~~ is not met, wherein the object serving link is deployed on the at least one other web server.

87. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for serving objects in a computing network, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for an object stored on an intelligent storage system, the request being received by a web server, and the intelligent storage system comprising ~~a plurality of storage devices and~~ a control unit configured to determine a mapping

~~for the request to one of the plurality of storage devices;~~ for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device;

computer readable program code configured to evaluate the request based on ~~criteria~~ at least one criterion;

computer readable program code configured to ~~redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system if the criteria are met;~~ return a redirect code from the web server to a sender if the at least one predetermined criterion is met, wherein the sender utilizes the redirect code to obtain the object in a manner that bypasses the web server for outbound traffic from the intelligent storage system to the client without transferring a corresponding session between the web server and the sender to a different web server;

and

computer readable program code configured to serve the stored object via the web server if the ~~criteria are~~ at least one criterion is not met.

88. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 87, wherein the computer readable program code configured to ~~evaluate criteria to see if the stored object should be served from the intelligent storage system through a recipient of the received request further~~ return a redirect code from the web server to a sender comprises:

computer readable program code configured to inform ~~a sender~~ the sender of the received request that a subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object ~~when the selected criteria are met~~.

89. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the ~~subsequent connection~~ redirect code points the sender to the logical location of the object on the intelligent storage system and bypasses the web server.

90. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to ~~Claim 88~~ Claim 86, wherein the computer readable program code configured to ~~inform a sender of the received request that a~~

~~subsequent connection to the control unit should be established for serving the stored object when the selected criteria are met uses~~ return a redirect code from the web server to a sender comprises:

computer readable program code configured to use a redirect code of an existing protocol, and wherein receipt of the redirect code by the sender of the received request automatically causes the sender to request establishment ~~of the~~ of a subsequent connection between the sender and the control unit of the intelligent control system.

91. (Currently Amended) The computer program product according to Claim 88, wherein the ~~criteria~~ at least one criterion is selected from one of a size of the stored object, a naming extension of the stored object, a name of the stored object, and a content type of the stored object.

92. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the ~~criteria~~ at least one criterion are statically-specified.

93. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 91, wherein the ~~criteria are~~ at least one criterion is dynamically-determined.

94. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the ~~criteria comprise~~ at least one criterion comprises one or more wildcards which operate to match more than one stored object.

95. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 87, wherein the intelligent storage system comprises a network-attached storage.

96. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for creating a link to an object, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein, the computer readable program code comprising:

computer readable program code configured to receive a request for a particular object in an intelligent storage system comprising ~~a plurality of storage devices and~~ a control unit configured to determine a mapping ~~for the request to one of the plurality of storage~~ devices; for the requested object to a location on an associated storage device;

computer readable program code configured to evaluate ~~characteristics~~ at least one characteristic of the particular object;

computer readable program code configured to create a redirect link on a web server receiving the request and deploying the redirect link on at least one other web server ~~on one or more web servers from which the particular object is requested~~ if the ~~evaluated characteristics~~ at least one evaluated characteristic of the particular object ~~meet criteria~~ is satisfied, the redirect link being configured to redirect the request to the control unit of the intelligent storage system; and

computer readable program code configured to create an object serving link on the web server receiving the request and deploying the object serving link on at least one other web server ~~on the one or more web servers~~ if the ~~evaluated characteristics~~ at least one evaluated characteristic of the particular object ~~do not meet the criteria~~ is not satisfied.

97. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 96, wherein the redirect link enables returning a redirect status code to a requester of the object.

98. (Previously Presented) The computer program product according to Claim 97, further comprising computer readable program code configured to request establishment of a subsequent connection automatically in response to receiving the redirect status code for retrieving the particular object directly from the intelligent storage system.

99-102. (Canceled)